

## New Tachinidae from Texas (Diptera).

By H. J. REINHARD, Texas Experiment Station, College Station, Texas.

### PARATACTA new genus.

Related to *Atacta* Schiner. Abdomen, thorax and head with distinct macrochaetae. Palpi well developed, proboscis slender, shorter than height of head. First vein bare, sides of face with bristly hairs on the lower half, apical cell open, ending well before wing tip. Eyes bare. Front of male greatly narrowed above, about equal to one-half the width of either eye, in female one and one-half times as wide as either eye. Ocellar bristles present, proclinate. Lowest frontal bristles about opposite the middle of second antennal joint. Antennae reaching to lower third of face, vibrissae rather weak, somewhat approximated, situated less than one-half the length of second antennal joint above oral margin. Facial ridges practically bare, only one or two bristles at the base above the vibrissae. Cheeks in the female about one-third, in the male one-fourth, as wide as eye height. Wings of normal shape, whitish hyaline, costal spine obsolete. Hind tibiae ciliate on the post-exterior edge. Type of genus, *Paratacta facialis* new species.

### *Paratacta facialis* new species.

♀. Black, the first two antennal joints, palpi, scutellum and fourth abdominal segment, except at its base, yellow. Frontal bristles diverging abruptly at base of antennae, cruciate, except the vertical pair. Two pairs of orbitals, and a pair of posteriorly directed macrochaetae situated outside of the frontal rows about mid-way between the hind pair of orbitals and the anterior ocellus. Inner and outer verticals strongly developed. Antennae separated at base by a carina, third joint black, except at base, slightly shorter than second. Arista bare, thickened on basal third, the penultimate joint slightly longer than broad. Sides of face at narrowest part nearly one-third as wide as median depression, bearing several irregular rows of bristly hairs extending from the lowest frontals nearly to lower end of the eyes. Proboscis moderately long, distal segment rigid, shining black, labella fleshy, yellowish; palpi spatulate.

Thorax gray pollinose, dorsum with five black vittae. Three post-sutural dorso-central and four sternopleural macrochaetae. Scutellum gray pollinose, with three pairs of long marginal macrochaetae and a smaller discal pair, dorsum covered with sub-erect bristly hairs.

Abdomen short, broad, gray pollinose, clothed with coarse reclinate bristles, all macrochaetae marginal, large and erect. The first two segments with the usual pairs, third with a marginal row and the fourth with a submarginal row.

Legs black, knees yellowish, middle tibiae with three macrochaetae on the front side near the middle, pulvilli short.

Wings whitish hyaline, veins yellow, all except third bare, the latter with two or three bristles at the base. Hind cross vein nearly straight, nearer to bend of fourth than to small crossvein. Apical cell open, ending distinctly before wing tip. Bend of fourth vein rounded, without a stump or fold. Calypteres whitish, tinged with yellow.

Total length 7 mm.

♂. Similar to female except as noted in the generic description and as follows: Parafrontals with numerous long slender black hairs, no orbital or outer vertical bristles present, third antennal joint as long as second. Eyes larger and the facets on the upper half enlarged.

Described from one male and one female specimen, the former not perfect. Collected at Balmorhea, Texas, August 4, 1922. (C. S. Rude). *Type*, a female, deposited in the U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C. This species differs from *Atacta* principally in having the parafacials hairy, and is generally much less robust.

#### **Xiphomyia texana** new species.

♀. Length 6 to 7 mm. Eyes bare. Front nearly as wide as either eye, faintly yellow pollinose, except on the outer borders, vitta broad, occupying about one-third the width of the front, opaque, brownish-black. Ocellar triangle yellow pollinose, with numerous short black hairs, and a pair of weak proclinate bristles. Two pairs of orbital bristles. Frontals in two rows, directed posteriorly and descending slightly below the base of third antennal segment. Parafacials, cheeks, and median depression cinereous. Antennae nearly as long as face, black, third joint slightly more than twice as long as second. Arista black, thickened only for a short distance beyond the base, microscopically pubescent on less than basal half, penultimate joint not longer than broad. Facial depression rather large, ridges diverging strongly downward, bearing four or five bristles above the vibrissae. The latter large and strongly cruciate, situated on level with the oral margin and lower end of the eyes. Sides of the face bare and narrow. Proboscis short, labella fleshy, yellowish; palpi brownish at base, yellow apically. Cheeks narrow, about one-fifth as wide as eye height. Posterior orbits and occiput cinereous.

Thorax black, the pollen on dorsum tinged lightly with yellow, four distinct vittae, the outer pair broad and interrupted at suture, pleurae

thinly gray pollinose. Four postsutural dorsocentral and three sternopleural macrochaetae. Scutellum black, bearing three pairs of marginal macrochaetae, the posterior pair extending almost to base of third abdominal segment, the apical pair small or obsolete.

Abdomen somewhat conical, clothed with reclinate bristly hairs, last three segments white pollinose on base, shining black apically, with both marginal and discal macrochaetae; the latter are sometimes asymmetrically placed. The piercer strongly developed, when unsheathed extends forward to second abdominal segment.

Legs black, middle tibiae with one bristle on the front side near the middle, hind tibiae sub-ciliate.

Wings whitish hyaline, costal spine inconspicuous, veins yellow. Third vein with two or three bristles near the base, all others bare. Posterior crossvein sinuous, nearer to bend of fourth than to small crossvein. Apical cell open, ending well before wing tip. Fourth vein nearly straight beyond bend, not distinctly appendiculate, but sometimes with a very short rudimentary stump at the bend. Calypteres white with a faint tawny tinge.

Described from three female specimens, collected at College Station, Texas, September, 1917, July, 1918, and October, 1921. (H. J. Reinhard). *Type*, a female, deposited in the U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C. This species is evidently near *gladiatrix* Townsend, but differs in the color of the face, scutellum, abdomen, etc., the piercer is not as long, and discal bristles on all abdominal segments except the first.

***Metachaeta cinerosa* new species.**

♂. Black, palpi, proboscis and base of third antennal segment, yellow. Front at vertex as broad as either eye, thinly gray pollinose, sub-shining, vitta opaque, brown, rather broad and extending around sides of ocellar triangle, the latter also gray pollinose and sub-shining. Ocellar bristles small, directed forward. Frontal bristles descending to tip of second antennal joint, usually two pairs of orbitals, the posterior pair sometimes very small. Cheeks, facial depression and sides of face gray pollinose. Antennae as long as face, third joint four or five times as long as second, convex on the front edge. Arista yellowish, short and thickened to the middle, densely clothed with short microscopic pubescence, the penultimate joint about as broad as long. Sides of face narrow, with a row of macrochaetae extending from the lowest frontal bristles to the lower corner of the eyes. Vibrissae large, cruciate, inserted on the oral margin, one or two bristles above each. Cheeks about one-third as wide as eye height. Proboscis short and fleshy, palpi slender, not thickened apically. Eyes apparently bare, but with a few short microscopic hairs.

Thorax thinly gray pollinose, dorsum sub-shining, with three pruinose vittae in front of the suture, the middle one extending postsuturally about half way to base of scutellum. The latter black, shining, bearing three pairs of marginal macrochaetae.

Abdomen elongate-ovate, shining black, narrow bases of second and third segments gray pollinose, all segments with marginal macrochaetae situated somewhat before the posterior border of the segments. No true discals present.

Wings hyaline, tinged with yellow at the base, costal spine strongly developed, veins yellow. The first vein bristly on basal half, third vein with bristles almost to small crossvein, all others bare. Posterior crossvein nearly straight, nearer to small crossvein than to bend of fourth, the latter without an appendage or fold. Last section of fifth vein more than one-half as long as the preceding section. Apical cell closed and long petiolate, the third vein ending near to wing tip. Calypteres white, with a tawny tinge.

Legs black, front tarsi considerably dilated, pulvilli and claws very short. Middle tibiae with a single bristle on the front side near the middle, hind tibiae not ciliate. Total length 4 mm.

Described from four male specimens collected at College Station, Texas, May, 1917, June, 1919, and March, 1921. (H. J. Reinhard). *Type*, a male, deposited in the U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C. This species differs from *helymus* Walker, in having hyaline wings, pruinose vittae on thorax, no discal macrochaetae on abdomen, and the intermediate segments of the latter pollinose on base.

---

#### Hunting Rare Beetles and Bugs Above Clouds (Coleop.).

Howard Notman, of 136 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn, New York, although now possessing one of the largest collections of preserved insects in the Western Hemisphere, still continues his quest for rarer species (July, 1923). The accompanying "snap shot" caught the entomologist examining a carabus beetle, an almost extinct species which he recently found under a rock on the top of Altyn Mountain in Glacier National Park. Mr. Notman will remain in this Rocky Mountain region the rest of the summer adding to his collection which now numbers 75,000 insects. He has been gathering this collection since boyhood. He has 5,000 varieties of beetles. Instead of having a large library room as most men of his financial circumstances do, he has built one commodious room on the top floor of his Brooklyn house which he devotes to his collection. He keeps them in a score of long show cases.

HOKE SMITH, St. Paul, Minnesota.